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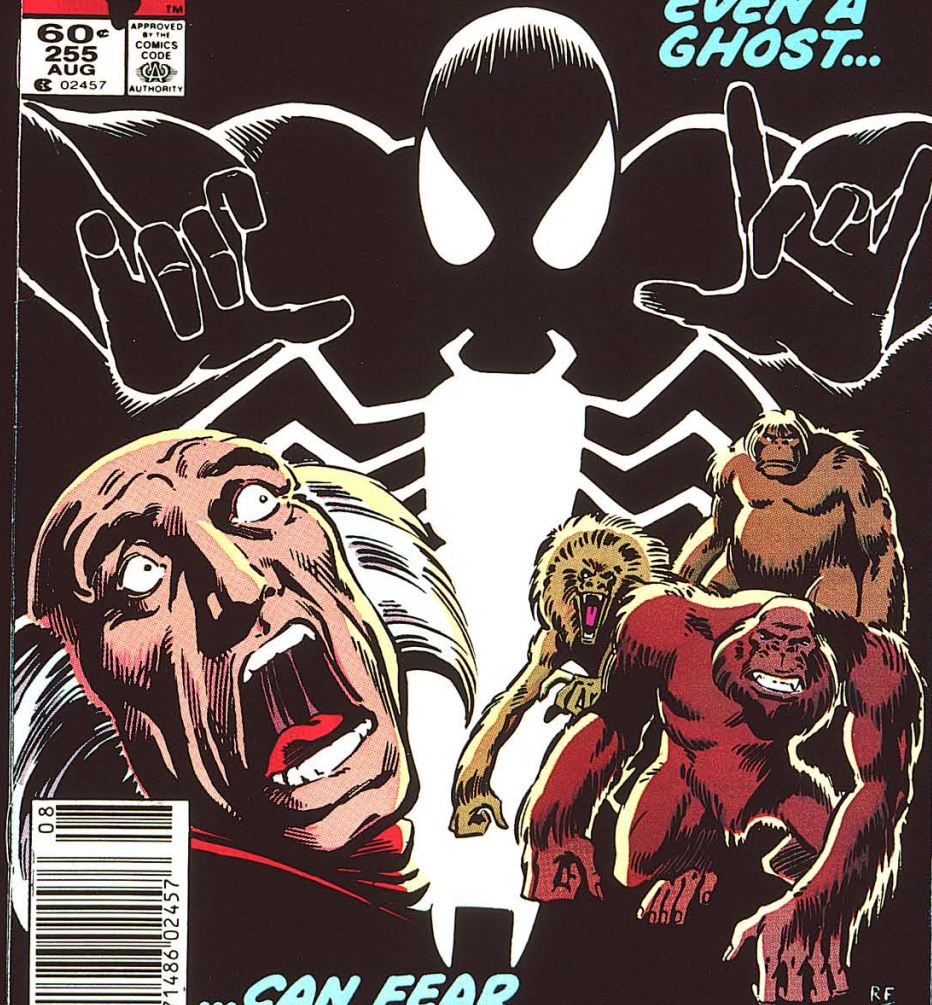


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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

EVEN A GHOST...



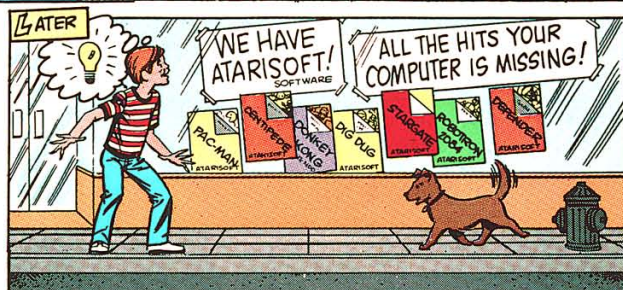
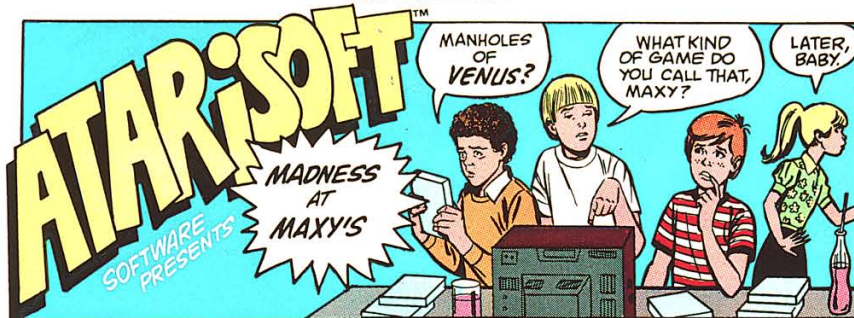
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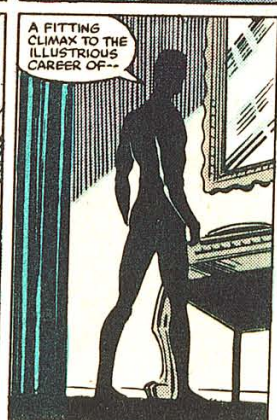
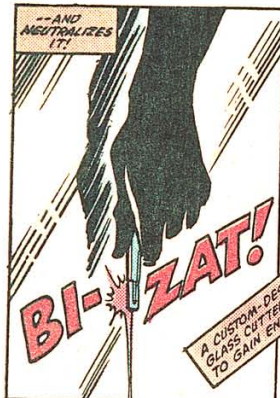
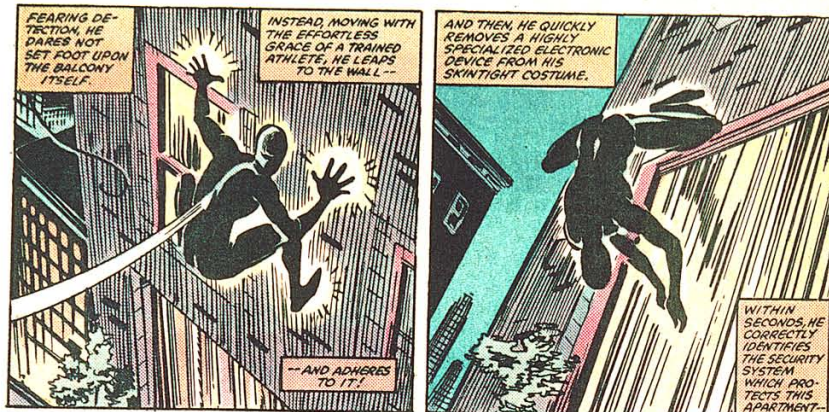
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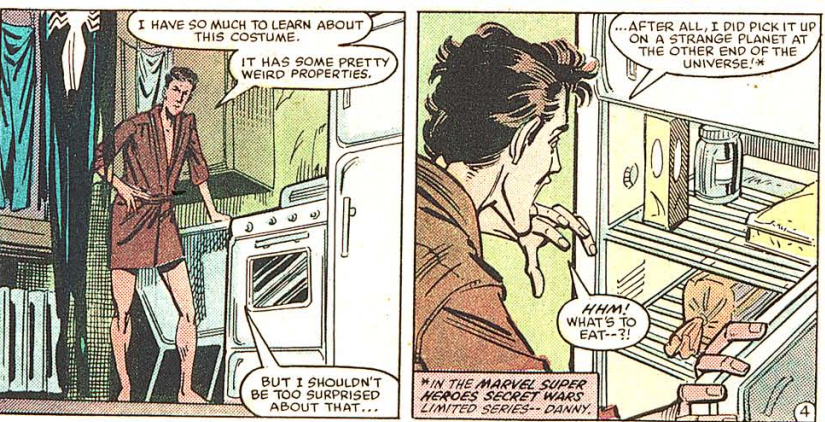
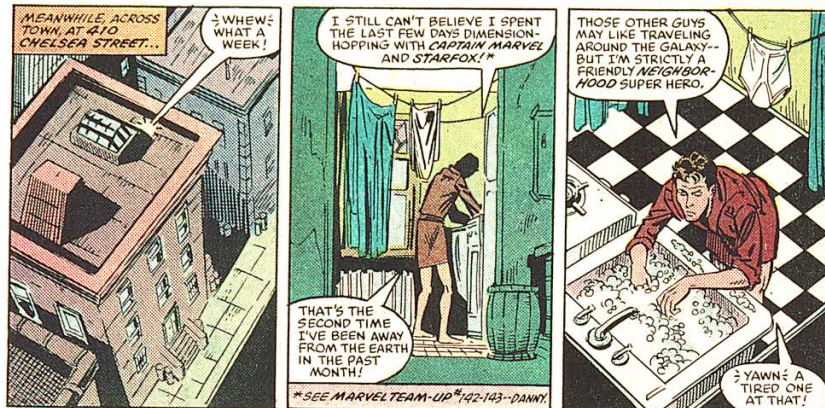
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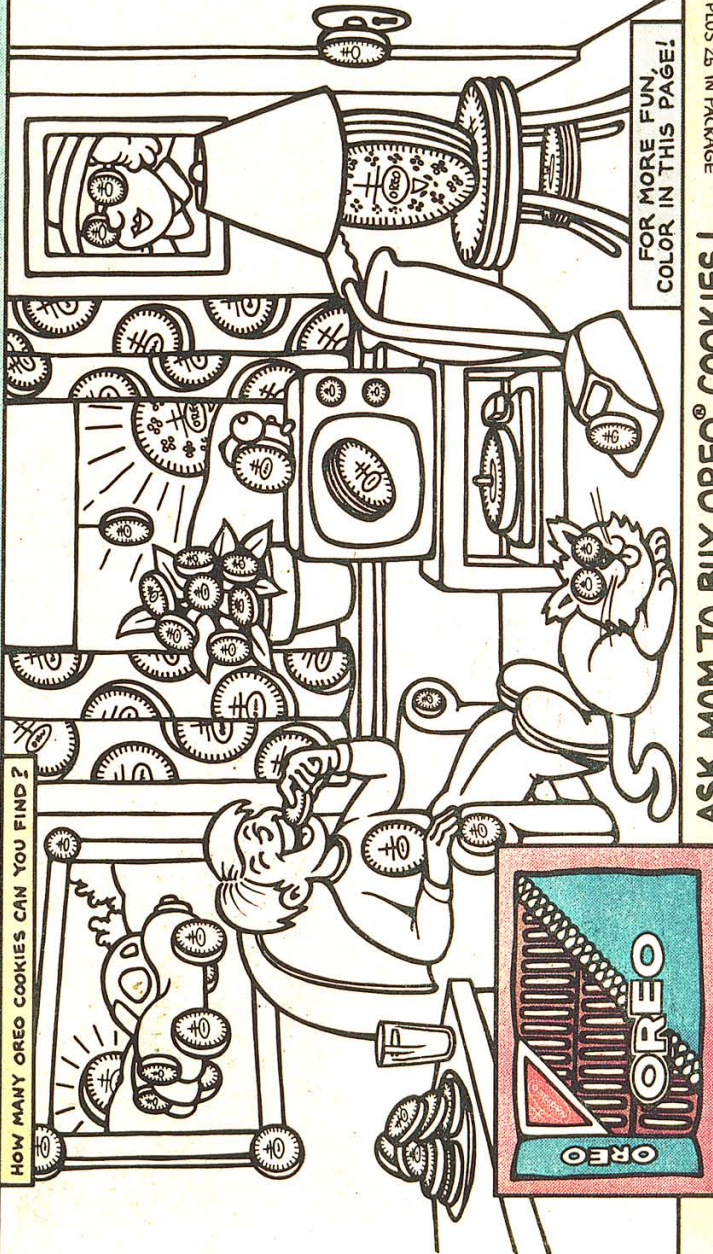
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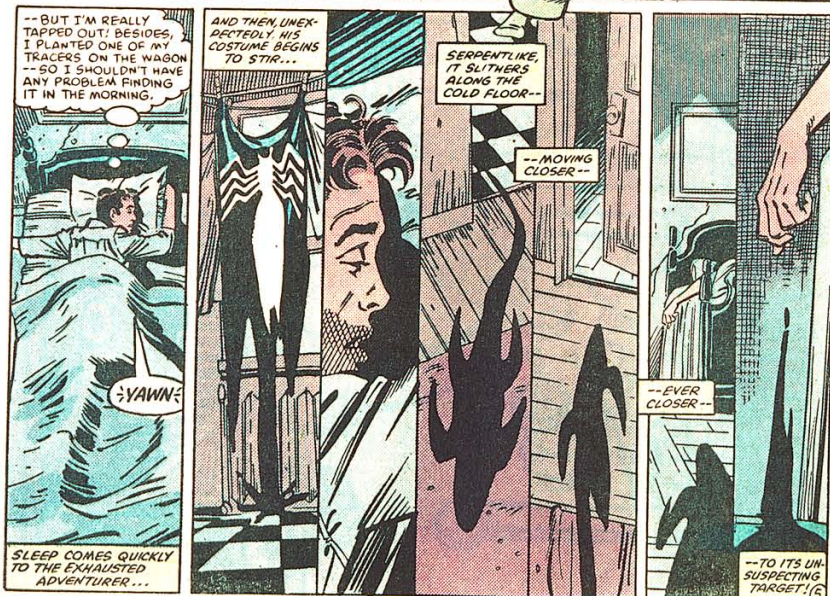
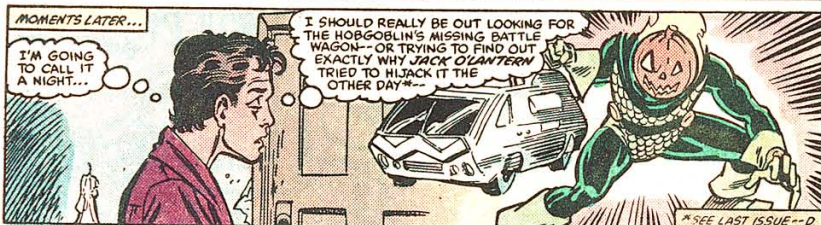


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ELSEWHERE...

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU HAVE FINALLY GOTTEN YOURSELF UNDER CONTROL.



HERE. PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP CALM YOU.

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND--!

WHO ARE YOU?!



MY REAL NAME IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN. BESIDES, IN THIS COUNTRY MY COMPANIONS AND I ARE BETTER KNOWN AS--

--THE RED GHOST AND HIS SUPER-APES!



OH, NO! HE'S ONE OF THOSE SUPER CRIMINALS ONE READS ABOUT! HE'S FOUGHT PEOPLE LIKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND IRON MAN!

THE BRANDY IS GOOD, YES?



HOWEVER, THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING THE COSMICIZER IS PUTTING AN INCREDIBLE STRAIN ON MY RESOURCES.

FOR MONTHS, I HAVE SECRETLY LIVED HERE--SUPPORTED BY THE PROCEEDS GAINED FROM PAST CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES-- BUT NOW, MY FUNDS ARE STARTING TO RUN LOW...

THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU!



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

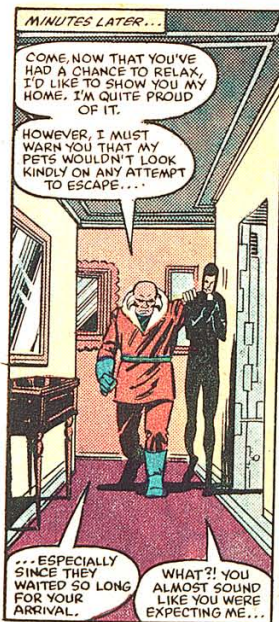
YOU CAN WALK THROUGH WALLS! YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE--STEAL ANYTHING!

NO! I CAN'T LEAVE THIS APARTMENT! SUCH AN ACT WOULD BE AKIN TO SUICIDE!



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? MY ENEMIES ARE OUTSIDE-- WAITING FOR ME TO REVEAL MYSELF--AND I DARE NOT FACE THEM UNTIL THE COSMICIZER IS COMPLETED!

MY PRESENCE IN THIS CITY IS A SECRET, AND MUST REMAIN SO!



MINUTES LATER...

COME, NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO RELAX, I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU MY HOME. I'M QUITE PROUD OF IT.

HOWEVER, I MUST WARN YOU THAT MY PETS WOULDN'T LOOK KINDLY ON ANY ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE....

...ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY WAITED SO LONG FOR YOUR ARRIVAL.

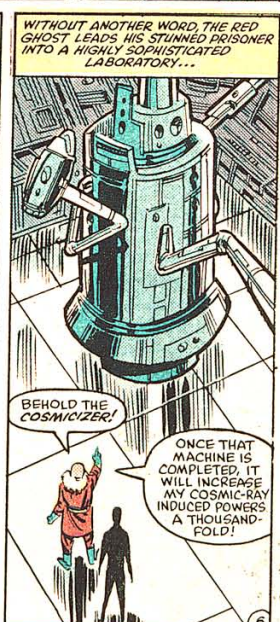
WHAT?! YOU ALMOST SOUND LIKE YOU WERE EXPECTING ME...



OF COURSE WE WERE. A PROFESSIONAL THIEF DOESN'T ROB APARTMENTS AT RANDOM. SOMEONE RECOMMENDED THIS PLACE TO YOU, SOMEONE IN MY EMPLOY.

SO! I WAS UP!

YOU ARE HERE, BECAUSE I HAVE NEED OF SOMEONE WITH YOUR PARTICULAR TALENTS.



WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE RED GHOST LEADS HIS STUNNED PRISONER INTO A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED LABORATORY...

BEHOLD THE COSMICIZER!

ONCE THAT MACHINE IS COMPLETED, IT WILL INCREASE MY COSMIC-RAY INDUCED POWERS A THOUSAND-FOLD!



I SHALL REMAIN HERE, WHERE IT IS SAFE, WHILE YOU SECURE THE FUNDS I NEED!

MY APES WILL ACCOMPANY YOU TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T BETRAY ME!

THIS IS CRAZY! INSANE!



THAT MAY WELL BE TRUE.

BUT YOU WILL DO WHAT I ASK...

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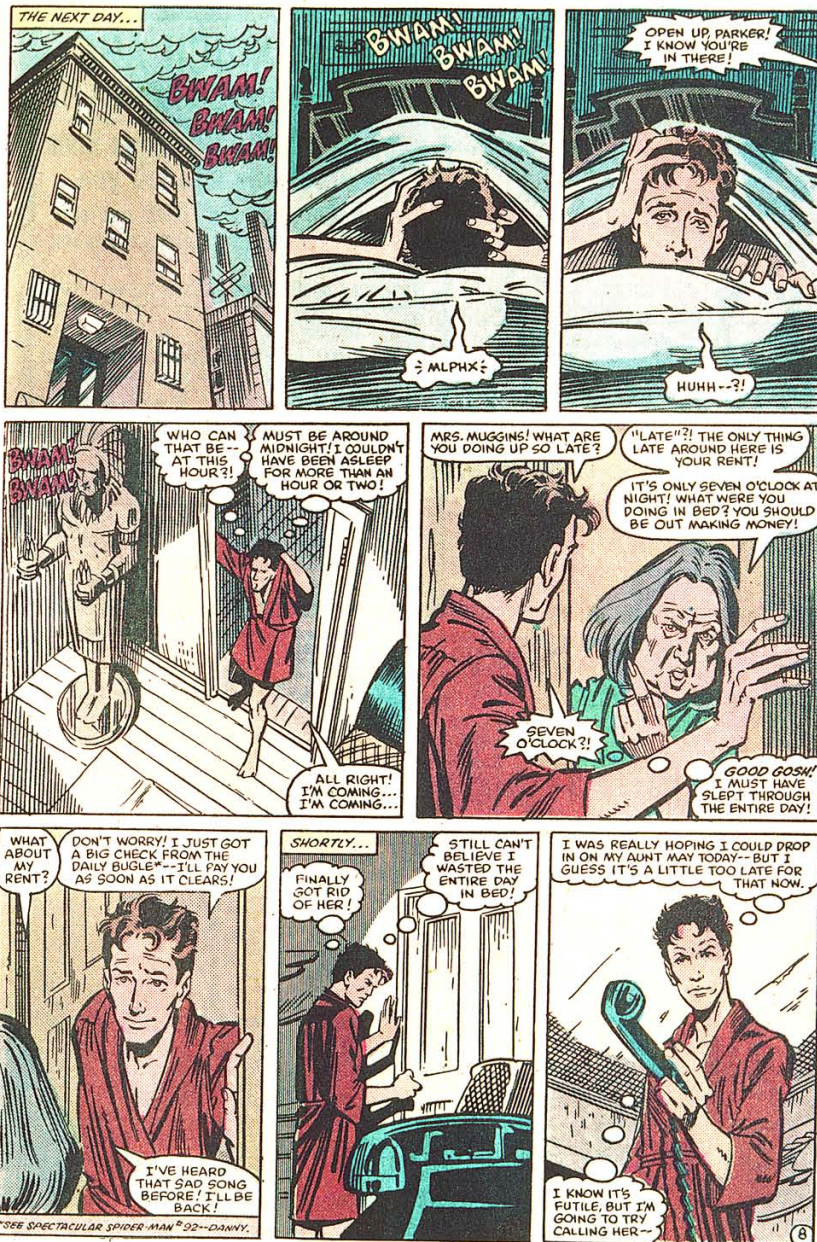
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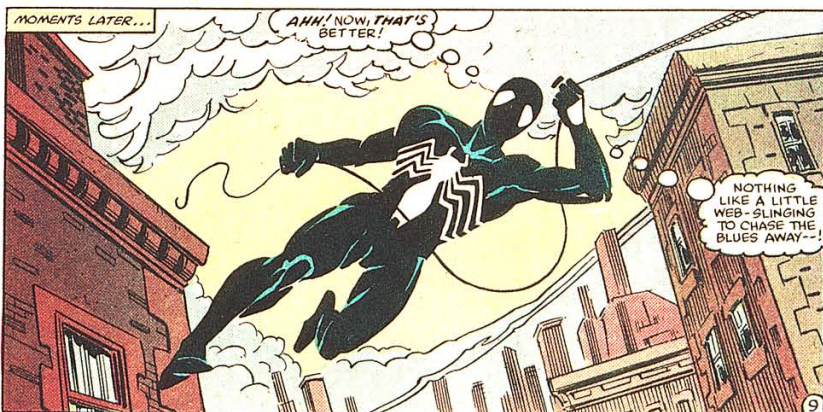
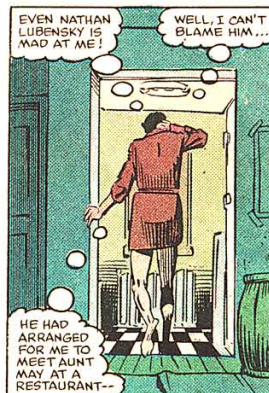
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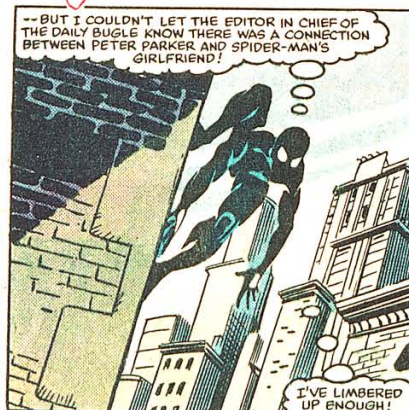
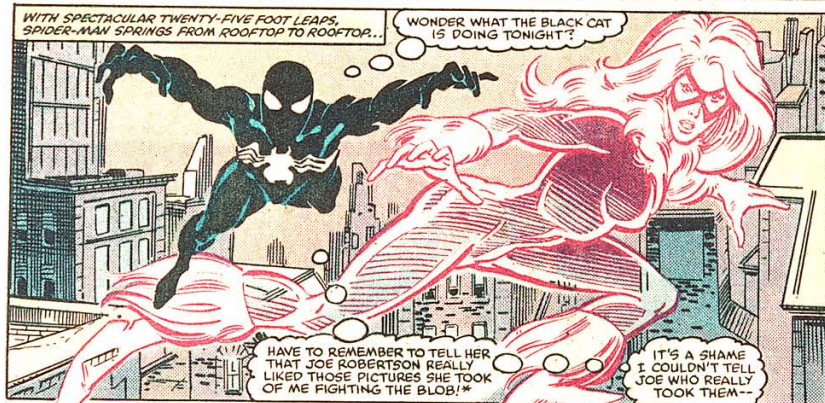
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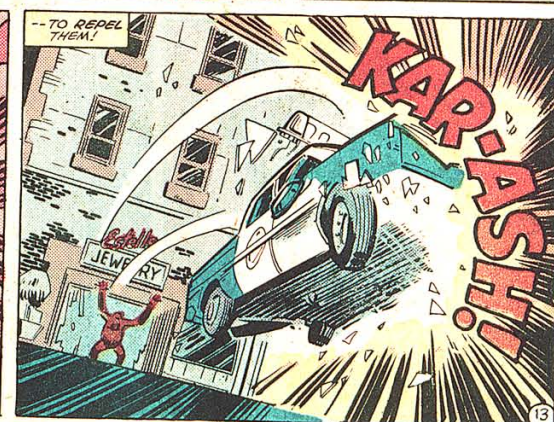
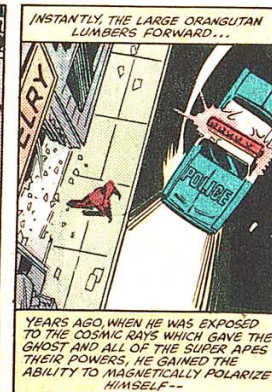
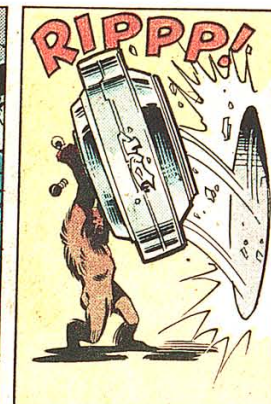
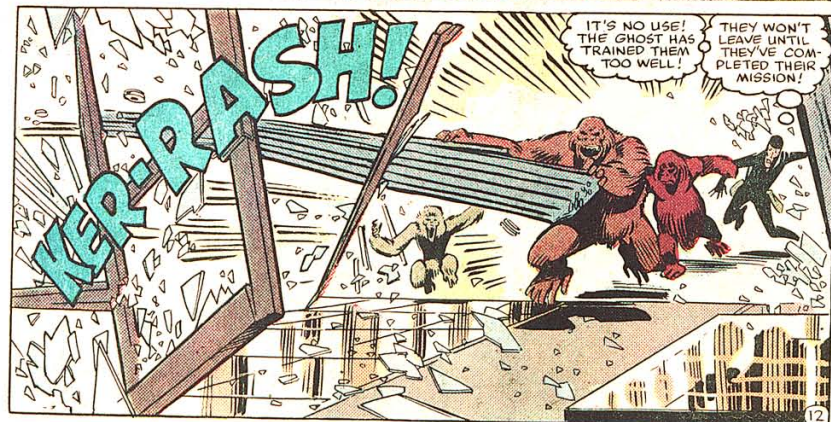
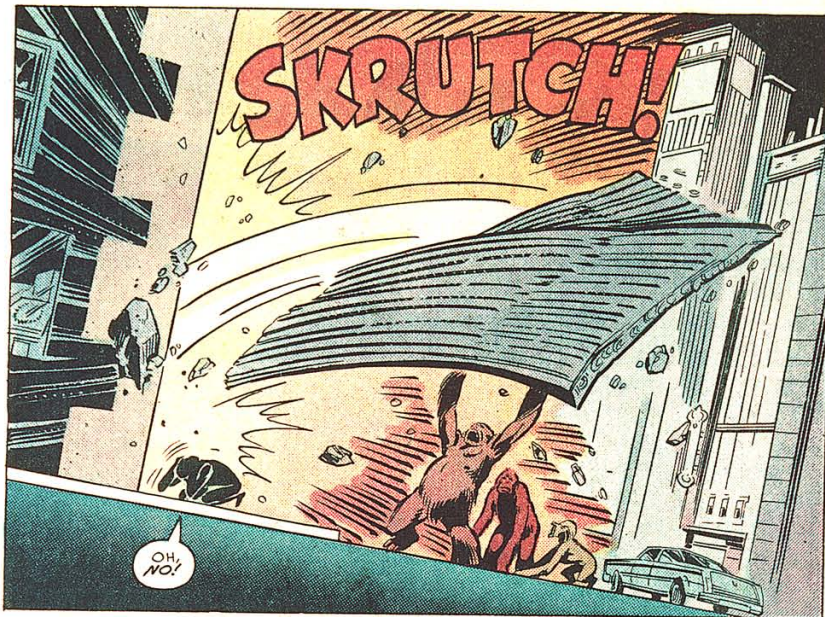
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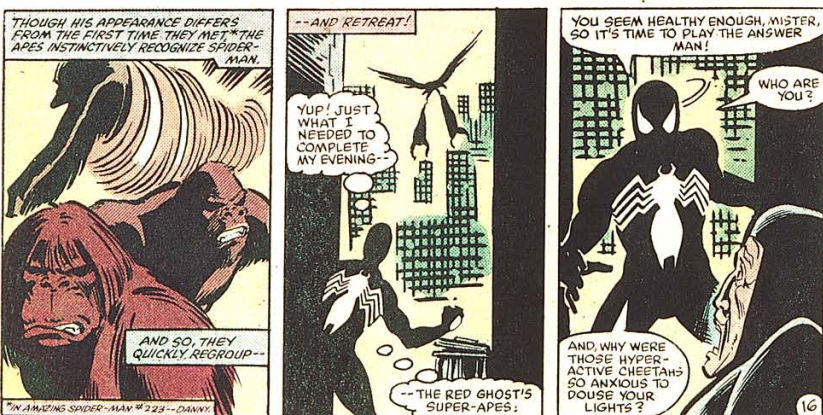
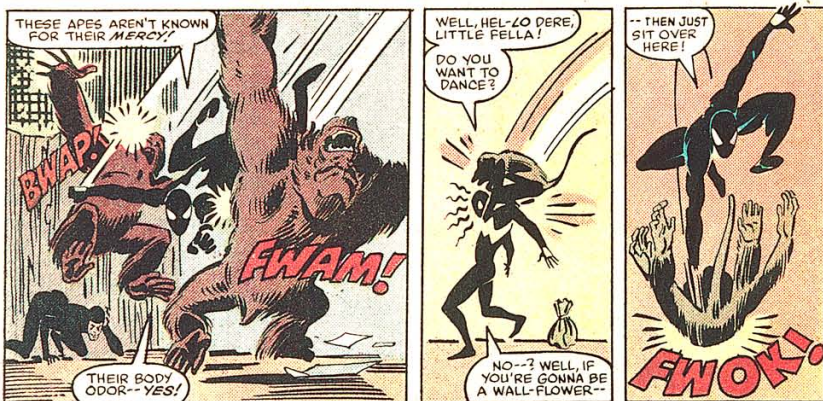


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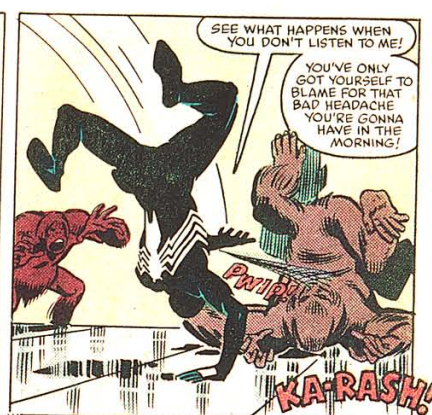
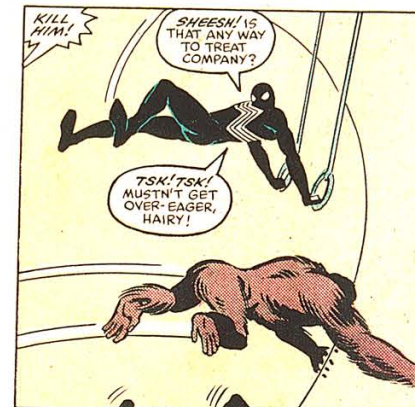
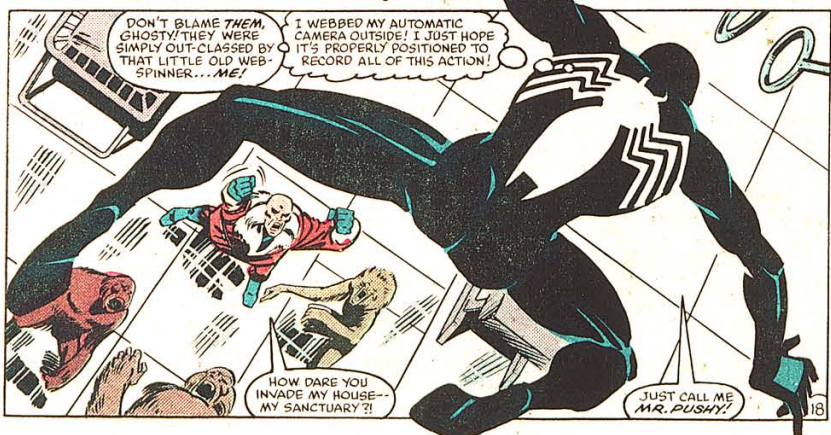


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BUT THEN, REFUSING TO ACCEPT DEFEAT, SPIDER-MAN STRAINS AGAINST THE SLITHERING MONSTER WITH ALL THE POWER OF HIS SUPERBLY MUSCLED BODY, UNTIL--

ARRRGH!

THIS SIDESHOW STOOGE MAY IMPRESS THE RUBES--

--BUT HE'S NO MATCH FOR A GUY WITH THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH OF A SPIDER!

NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED, I'D LIKE A TOUR OF THE PLACE!

WHERE'S THE LITTLE SPIDER'S ROOM?

--THESE GUYS ARE TOUGH!

STOP HIM!

WISH I WAS HALF AS CONFIDENT AS I SOUND--

WHEN IT COMES TO RAW POWER, THEY'RE IN A LEAGUE WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE STRONG ONE OF THE GROUP!

MAYBE I CAN USE THAT TO MY ADVANTAGE!

"GRRR!"? YOU'LL NEED BETTER THAN THAT--

--TO BE INVITED TO THE SPIDER-MAN CELEBRITY ROAST!

BWAM!

AH! FROM THE FOX'S DESCRIPTION, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR--THE COSMICIZER!

I'VE GOTTA DESTROY IT BEFORE THE GHOST CAN USE IT TO INCREASE HIS POWERS!

UH-OH! HERE COMES THE GORILLA AGAIN!

KA-VWOOM!

GOOD SHOT, BONZO!

I THOUGHT I COULD TRICK YOU INTO DEMOLISHING YOUR BOSS'S BABY!

NOOOO!

MONTHS OF LABOR--GONE IN AN INSTANT!

Bullpen Bulletins

A TRAGIC MISTAKE...

Well, maybe not really tragic, but, anyway — a few months ago I was talking about being down in Florida visiting *Adventure International*, where they make the best darn computer games in the whole wide world, and I mentioned that a programmer named John Anderson made some favorable comments about our now-legendary Assistant Editors Month.

Oops. It seems that the fellow I spoke to was in reality, *Mr. Mark S. Murley*, who's a Documentation Manager for A.I. as well as a Marvel Comics fan for nearly twenty years! John is a very nice guy, don't get me wrong — but it was Mark with whom I spoke about Assistant Editors Month! Sorry guys! From now on, I promise to keep the names straight.

WHICH BRINGS UP QUESTPROBE...

Have you seen the first issue of our *Questprobe* Limited Series? We're doing this series in conjunction with *Adventure International*, which, if you don't know, is a division of Scott Adams, Inc. They're doing corresponding computer games to go with our comics — which by the way, are hot stuff all by themselves.

Whether you get along with computers or not, I think you'll like this series — especially since issue #1 marks the return of *John Romita* the elder to mainstream Marvel comics. He's finishing and inking the pencil layouts of Mark Gruenwald. The story featuring the Hulk is by Bill Mantlo, and if this thing isn't a collectors' item, I've never seen one.



THREE TITLES KILLED!

Yes, it's true. Issue #34 of *Ka-Zar*, issue #38 of *Moon Knight* and issue #59 of *The Micronauts* will be the last of those series. Why? Because those three titles were Marvel's three Direct Market-only books, sold exclusively at comics specialty shops. They were made all-direct as an experiment to find out whether or not the Direct Market was strong enough to support titles all by itself. Turned out it is — all three titles sold very well — which is why we now publish

a whole bunch of stuff like *EPIC* Comics, deluxe reprint specials, and Graphic Novels exclusively for that market. However, the experiment is over — we've found out what we want to know — so we're cancelling *Ka-Zar*, *Moon Knight* and *The Micronauts*. So much for them. They served their purpose. They blazed the trail for the likes of *Dreadstar*, *Coyote* and *Void Indigo*. Yep, no need for them anymore... not in their special experimental. Direct-Market only format anyway, which is why...

HYPE BOX

TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series)

#1 — It's a battle four million years in the making — and fought on the streets where we live! The combatants? Robots from the world Cybertron — who can change form at will to any machine they wish. And, as if you hadn't guessed already, that's why they're called... the *Transformers*! It's action and adventure in the Mighty Marvel Tradition by BILL MANTLO, FRANK SPRINGER and KIM DEMULDER.

HIGH ADVENTURE #1 — Four stories of swashbuckling adventure in the most exotic places in the world — and crafted with tender, loving care by the best writers and artists in the business! This book has been nearly a year in the making, and we think it's been well worth the wait! Stories by STEVE ENGLEHART, ANN NOCENTI, MIKE CARLIN and LOUISE SIMONSON. Art by JOHN SEVERIN, TONY SALMONS, GERRY TALAOC and STEVE LEIALOHA.

POWER PACK #1 — They're a new team of super-heroes! They have all-new super powers! They have a mission to save the world! And... they're all under age 12! Never let it be said we do things the easy way around here! They're the *Power Pack* — and they debut this month in a special, double-size issue, courtesy of LOUISE SIMONSON and BOB WIACEK (both of *X-Men* fame), and talented newcomer JUNE BRIGMAN!

TA-DAAA!

The *Micronauts*, *Moon Knight* and *Ka-Zar* are being reborn! Restaged! *Relaunched* into the world, each in its own full-fledged all-new comics series, sold at newsstands and comics specialty shops in the time-tested traditional Marvel Comics format, priced at 60¢! It's a new beginning for some truly outstanding and deserving characters. When? *MICRONAUTS: THE NEW VOYAGES* #1 goes on sale June 12th, and *THE FIST OF KHONSHU* #1 also debuts June 12th. *Ka-Zar* will come along later. Watch for him.

Those of you who didn't or couldn't follow these guys when they were all-direct, don't worry. When I say it's a new beginning for them, I mean it. You'll be able to pick right up on these guys. Of course, if you want to check out what has gone before, your local comics specialty dealer (many of whom advertise in our comics) will cheerfully help you track down back issues!

So there!

THAT'S ALL...

Except to warn you that next month I'll be announcing a nifty freebie, yes, as in giveaway, courtesy of us guys. What is it? How many? How big?

Stay tuned.

And stay well,

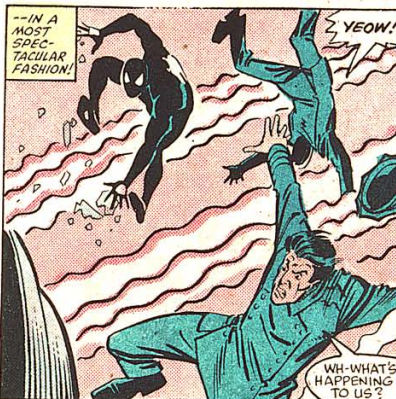
Jim Shooter
Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

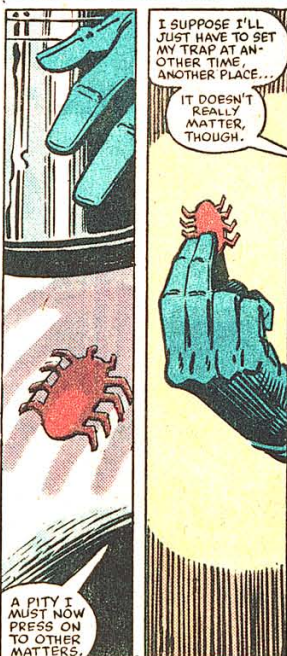
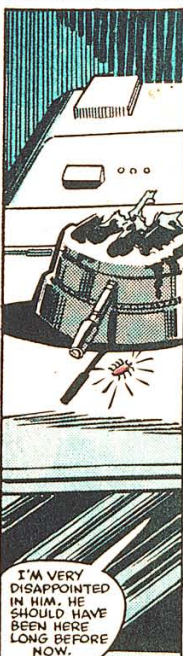
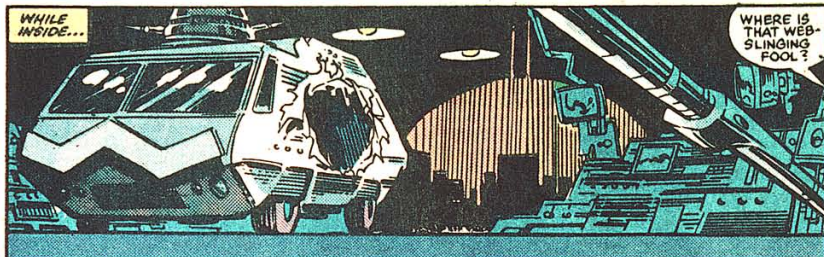
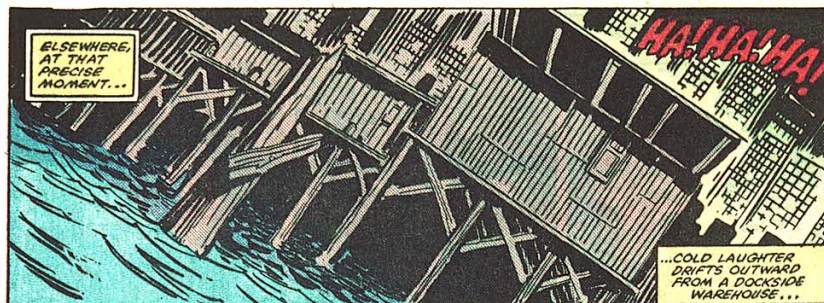
CHECK LIST

- ☐ THE THING #14
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #209
- ☐ NEW MUTANTS #18
- ☐ DAZZLER #33
- ☐ TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #1 — See Hype Box.
- ☐ KA-ZAR #33
- ☐ MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #4
- ☐ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #255
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #295
- ☐ THOR #348
- ☐ INDIANA JONES #20
- ☐ POWER PACK #1 — See Hype Box.
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #66
- ☐ U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #11
- ☐ MICRONAUTS #59
- ☐ IRON MAN #185

- ☐ THE THING #13
- ☐ INCREDIBLE HULK #298
- ☐ AVENGERS #245
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #161
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #166 — Reprinting "The Menace of the Molten Man," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man* #28
- ☐ X-MEN #184
- ☐ ROM #57
- ☐ POWER MAN/IRON FIST #108
- ☐ TARZAN OF THE APES (Limited Series) #2
- ☐ G.I. JOE #26
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #269
- ☐ U.S. 1 (Limited Series) #14 — Featuring Spider-Man and Moon Knight
- ☐ DEFENDERS #134

- ☐ PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #93
- ☐ STAR WARS #86
- ☐ ALPHA FLIGHT #13
- ☐ WHAT IF #46 — "What If Uncle Ben Had Lived?" Starring Spider-Man.
- ☐ MARVEL MAGAZINES
- ☐ SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #102
- ☐ MARVEL AGE #17
- ☐ EPC COMICS
- ☐ ALIEN LEGION #2
- ☐ DREADSTAR #11
- ☐ COYOTE #6
- ☐ SPECIAL EVENTS
- ☐ HIGH ADVENTURE #1 — See Hype Box.
- ☐ IRON MAN TRADE PAPERBACK — Reprinting from *Man* #120-128.





THE SPIDER'S WEB

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387 Park Avenue South
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DANNY FINGEROTH
EDITOR
BOB DeNATALE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

And so it begins. Starting with the story you've just read, the new regular AMAZING SPIDER-MAN team, Tom DeFalco and Ron Frenz, launch the web-slinger into what I predict will be one of the most fertile, creative, exciting periods in the history of the magazine. With the spectacular inking of Josef Rubinstein putting the final touch on this and upcoming tales, I see big things coming, and it's gonna be one of my great pleasures — and honors — to be here to see it all happen. I hope you'll come along for the ride; it promises to be most enjoyable. And let us know how you like our new regular team's work. We'll be waiting.

And now, a look at the mail on issue #249...

Gentlemen,
Sensational! Splendid! Mind-blowing! And wait until I get to the good points! If that opening blitzkrieg of commendation temporarily clouded your memory, I'm speaking, of course, about AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #249. Fantastic!

The Hobgoblin series is superb! The art is fabulous, and the storyline is progressing brilliantly! But AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #249 caught me off guard. The Kingpin rescuing Spidey? Hmm. I like it. Vulnerability in a big mass of muscle intrigues me. The Kingpin is obviously scared of the Hobgoblin — but who in their right mind wouldn't be?

One last thing: As to who the Hobgoblin really is, there's only one person I can think of that we haven't heard from yet — the small-time burglar who killed Uncle Ben. I think he's the Hobgoblin!

Keep up the good work!

Paul McIntire
Rt.
Wolfe City, TX 75496

You must not have read AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #200, Paul. Otherwise you'd know that the burglar died in that issue. Of course, more than one of Spidey's enemies have kept on plaguing, death notwithstanding.

Dear Roger and John,
SPIDER-MAN #249 was super! I've been collecting SPIDER-MAN for a year now, and #249 was one of the best I've ever read.

I really liked Hobgoblin and Kingpin. I hope you show more of them in future issues.

Joe Kotnik
International Falls, MN

Friends,

I haven't been reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN a lot lately, because of boredom, fiscal restraint, and a general sense that since Gwen Stacy died nothing really interesting happens in this comic, anyway. But the last few issues have interested me, especially #249. As mysteries go, the Hobgoblin mystery is fun. I don't want to know who he is — I'm enjoying the suspense too much. (My guess is that that he is Norman

Osborn himself, somehow alive again.) The supporting cast has never been better, especially the effervescent Mary Jane Watson. Harry Osborn is showing both character and complexity; so is J. Jonah Jameson.

Blackmail! There is so much about Norman Osborn that we are still learning. His crimes live on after him. Seldom has the concept of a purloined journal been put to such interesting use. Good plotting, with the plausible involvement of so many, from the Kingpin to the Bugle staff.

What will change Peter's life so it will never be the same? Why, and who will do it? Yeah, you've interested me. "Hooked." I think they call it. Besides, Peter is cute in that "animal" shirt. I'll be back for #250.

Elizabeth Holden
288 Daly Ave., Apt. 3
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6G5
Canada

Dear Marvel,

What's going on with Mary Jane Watson? On page four of issue #249, our hero gets an exceptionally intense spider-sense buzz just as M.J. talks about staying in the city, and Peter reflects on having her as a friend and not a lover. Why do I get the sneaky feeling that she's going to find out about Peter and his little affair with the Black Cat?

And, speaking of Parker's lady-loves, whatever happened to Marcy Kane? She seemed to care more for him than she cared to admit... so do something about it, already!

Steven A. Stewart
354 E. First St.
San Jacinto, CA 92583

By now, you probably know that that intense spider-buzz Peter felt at the party was actually a signal from the Beyonder, calling him to the Secret Wars, now being chronicled in a very special 12-issue limited series by Jim Shooter, Mike Zeck and John Beatty. If you haven't done so already, you owe it to yourself to check it out.

As for Mary Jane Watson and the Black Cat, we can promise major developments for both of them in the near future — and we do mean major. Watch this magazine, PETER PARKER and MARVEL TEAM-UP for details.

As for Marcy Kane, we don't think she'll be around for a while, for reasons explained in the recent JACK OF HEARTS mini-series. The back issues are still available in some areas, and, with story and art by Bill Mantlo and George Freeman, it comes highly recommended.

Dear Spider-Managers,

Uh-oh!

Pete has "the most intense spider-buzz" he's ever experienced. I've a grim prediction, but one I nevertheless believe to be true — the sudden death of Aunt May must have caused it.

By the way, I Like! Your! Use! Of! One! Word! Titles! Followed! By! Exclamation! Points!

Marc Edelstein
201 E. Dillido Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

If you read the preceding letter and reply, Marc, you know why the buzz was so intense. Rest assured that dear old Aunt May is still alive and kicking.

And, as for those funky titles — We! Like! Them! Too!

Dear Spider-Guys,

This month marks my ten-year anniversary of collecting comics, so I guess it is fitting that I should finally write my first letter. My first love in comics has always been SPIDER-MAN, and I have read the title through its ups and downs. It was thus, with great happiness, that I read SPIDER-MAN #249. The issue was a classic.

Mark Howorth
2601 Warring St.
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Web-Spinners,

I have been an avid Spidey follower for more than five years now. Although I have wanted to write and let you know what a great magazine SPIDER-MAN is, this is the first time I've actually gotten around to doing it.

I've been trying to figure out who the Hobgoblin is ever since his first appearance, and I think I know — it's Mendel Stromm! Who else would know about Norman Osborn's secrets and want to blackmail Osborn's old club colleagues? Who else would have both the know-how to improve the weaponry of the Green Goblin and the financing to do so? Maybe I'm wrong, but Stromm is my candidate.

Michael W. Williamson
330 W. Main St.
Cardington, OH 43315

Dear Mr. Stern,

The Hobgoblin is Mendel Stromm.

Tobin Walls
P.O. Box 65
Hephzibah, GA 30815

Dear Mr. Fingerioth, Mr. DeNatale and Mr. Stern,

Who else could have more interest in Norman Osborn's criminal activities both in and out of costume than his former partner in business? Ergo, Mendel Stromm could be the Hobgoblin.

Wilfred D. DeVoe
231 Park Drive, Apt. #18
Boston, MA 02215

Michael, Tobin and Wilfred — you may find it gratifying to know that a lot of fans agree with you. In fact, well over half of our readers who wrote us this month guessed that Stromm is the Hobgoblin. It makes perfect sense, too. Osborn sent Stromm up the river some years back for embezzlement, so Stromm has plenty of reason to be nasty. He could well be the Hobgoblin.

Next issue: Things go from bad to disastrous for the ol' web-slinger when he faces the awesome ferocity of... PUMA! Plus, you'll thrill to Mary Jane, the Black Cat, the Rose — and learn more about Spider-Man's mysterious new costume. See you then.

Danny Fingerioth

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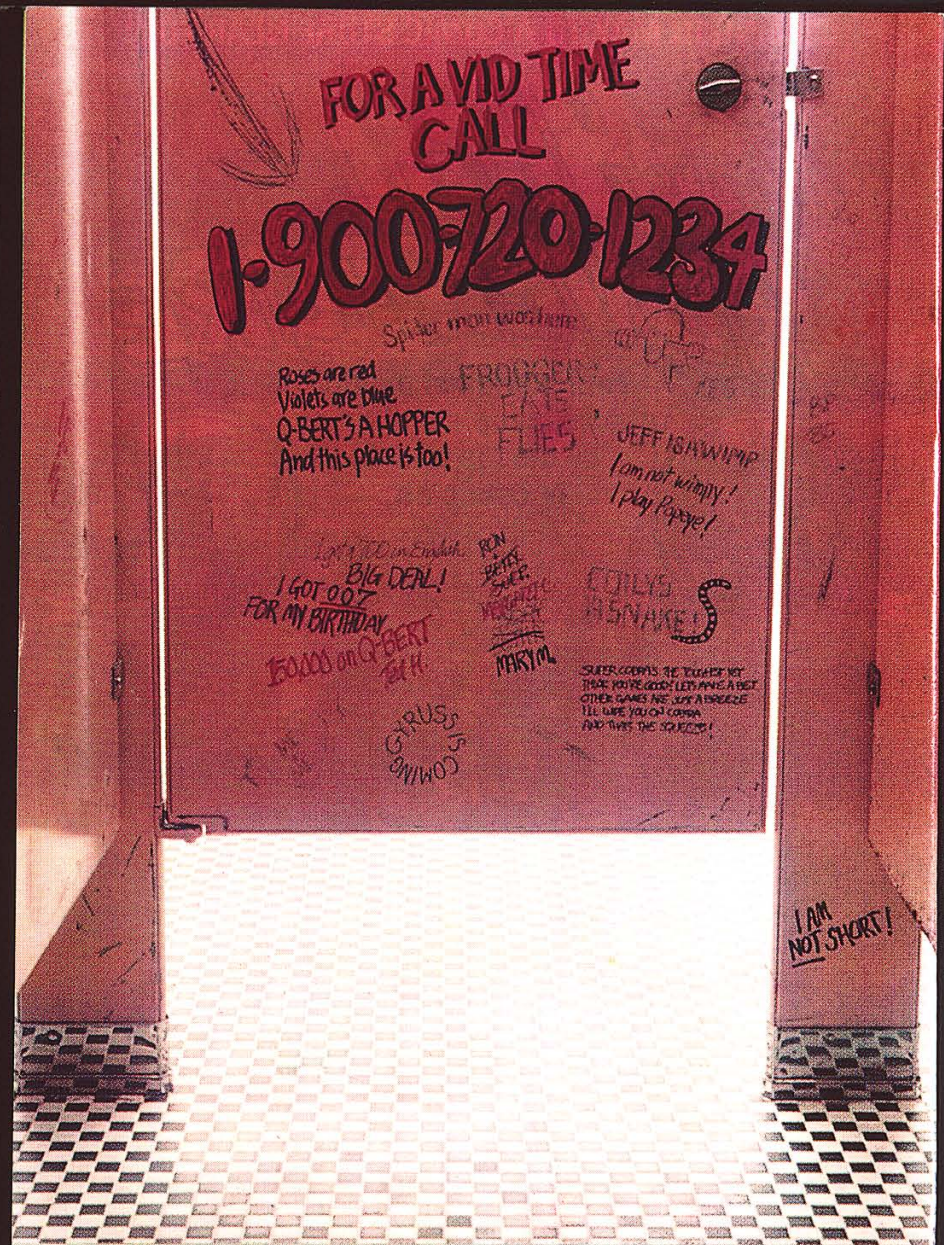


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